

EH-11046

10/775,905

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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the attention accorded the present Application in the June 6, 2007 Final Office Action, in which claims 1-2 and 5-7 were pending. By the foregoing amendments, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly specify the present invention. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 and 5-7 are now currently pending in this Application. Based on the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections to these claims have been overcome. Reconsideration of this Application, and allowance of claims 1-2 and 5-7 is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 103 rejections

Claims 1-2 and 5-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiskes in view of Hellemann.

As presently claimed in Applicant's independent claim 1, Applicant's invention comprises "[a] method for repairing a foot of a cast stator vane segment ... using a *Leybold-Heraeus W-3 electron beam welder* ... ." The amendment to this claim is supported by Applicant's specification at page 4, lines 21-23.

In contrast, neither of Hiskes and/or Hellemann disclose, nor even suggest, using this specific electron beam welder to perform the repair claimed by Applicant. Therefore, Hellemann and Hiskes, even if combined, are deficient as references against Applicant's invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 of the present invention is patentably distinguished from Hiskes and Hellemann. As claims 2 and 5-7 depend from claim 1, the discussion above applies to these claims as well. Further, these claims each include separate novel features. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw these rejections and allow pending claims 1-2 and 5-7.

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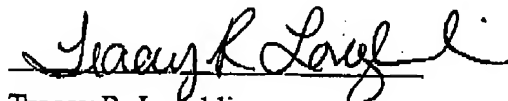
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CONCLUSION

As this response is being timely filed within three (3) months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action dated 06/06/07, Applicant believes that there are no fees due. However, if this is incorrect, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due to **Deposit Account Number 21-0279, Order No. EH-11046.**

Should the Examiner have any questions, or determine that any further action is necessary to place this Application into better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: Aug. 8, 2007

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